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## DOES WOMAN EQUAL MAN IN BRAIN POWER?

Scientist Shows Feminine Mind Possesses as Brilliant Manifestations of Genius as Does the Masculine

Dr. Dorland Answers Widely Read Article of Dr. Baruch in Which Latter Maintained Man's Superiority

On May 11, 1913, THE SUNDAY SUN printed an interview with Dr. Simon Baruch, professor of hydrotherapy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, which attracted instant attention. Dr. Baruch, who is widely known through his medical writings, particularly in his chosen branch of hydrotherapy, took the ground that woman, through the limitations set by nature, never could approach man in the works of superior genius. Dr. Baruch finally has found a foe worthy of his steel in Dr. W. A. Newman Dorland, professor of gynecology in the Post-Graduate Medical School of Chicago. Dr. Dorland, who is also well known as a medical writer, particularly upon subjects relating to women and their psychology, takes up the gauntlet that has lain unchallenged for two years and enters the lists as the champion of feminine mentality.

Dr.  
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By DR. W. A. NEWMAN DORLAND.

IN the spring of 1908 there appeared in the Century Magazine under my name two articles bearing upon the mentality of famous men of modern times, with special reference to the age of masterful productivity, or when thinking men do their best work. Shortly subsequent to their publication, the genial Richard Watson Gilder, then editor of that journal, while on a visit to Philadelphia, suggested the advisability of preparing a similar paper upon the mentality of thinking women, as determined by the records of the famous women of modern times.

This implied a task of Herculean proportions with associated features that rendered its development unusually difficult. A natural reluctance to assume such an undertaking, coupled with the necessity of approaching the work thoroughly armed with incontrovertible facts and deductions, has made it impossible to present the results of the investigation at an earlier date.

A further incentive to the completion of the study, if such were needed, was afforded in the spring of 1913 by a notable interview, in which the distinguished Dr. Simon Baruch, professor of hydrotherapy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, presented his views on feminism and its allied subjects. Coming from a man of such acknowledged ability, erudition and accomplishments, the statements then made with calm deliberation must bear great weight, although they are admittedly open to equally calm analysis and intellectual dissection. The following excerpts have been made from his remarks, in order that they may be subjected to a comparison with the recorded achievements of modern thinking women of all civilized lands. If his deductions are correct, the records will support and substantiate them; and if not, he will himself, profound thinker that he is, acknowledge the testimony of recorded deeds.

In the published interview, in response to Elie Metchnikoff's assertion that genius "is a masculine quality, just as a beard is, for instance, or as

of genius, that women have made no important discoveries and that women have not placed themselves at the head of the professions which are practically their own. The greatest chefs everywhere are men, the foremost modistes and the best dress-makers are men. . . . Woman has achieved fame and distinction in literature, but belles lettres are important only as an embellishment in our life and in this respect woman has succeeded. Woman beautifies life, but she does not add to the general welfare of mankind as much as man. . . .

"It has been said that women have thus far failed to rank as high as men in the different arts and sciences because they have not had the opportunity. But man has shown that genius makes its own opportunity. Most of the great inventors and great artists have sprung from the humblest surroundings, and they have worked amid untold hardships and privations and have achieved what they had set out to achieve. Are there any great women who have risen from such surroundings and hardships to a high place? So it is not because woman lacks the opportunities or because she lacks perseverance that she has not achieved distinction as an inventor or discoverer. Woman has perseverance to a remarkable degree and it was through this very quality and through her maternal instincts that she has initiated civilization, which is



Mme. Curie



Frances E. Willard

strong muscles are," Dr. Baruch is quoted thus: "I would not say that genius is a masculine quality, for woman has shown the genius for civilization, for home building. But whenever woman deviates from her finest feminine qualities she loses the real power that enabled her to bring about civilization. When her feminine qualities are merged into masculine qualities she fails to accomplish important work. When I say that men have made the greatest discoveries throughout history I do not mean to say that it is due to difference of intellect between man and woman. Each sex has its own distinct qualities in which it excels.

"I may say biological causes are back of these differences. Woman is attuned to maternity, and that makes her greater than man. Throughout the ages woman has been building up civilization. In other fields of endeavor, however, woman is not the equal of man. As inventors, as discoverers, men are supreme. As painters, men have always produced the greatest masterpieces. . . . Look through the encyclopaedia for the names of women painters or composers or inventors and you will find that their number is insignificant. . . . The test of history has shown that women have failed to produce works

the greatest achievement. As far as I can recall now there is only one great woman scientist, Mme. Curie, and she claims that she is only part discoverer of radium.

"For seventy-five years women have been studying medicine, while there is not really one great woman in the field of medical science. It is simply due to the fact that women have not the constructive germ plasm which leads to great constructive discoveries.

"Havelock Ellis, the great student of the psychology of woman, said: 'It is difficult to recall examples of women who have patiently and slowly fought their way at once to perfection and to fame in the face of complete indifference, like, for instance, Balzac. It is still more difficult to recall a woman who for any abstract and intellectual end has fought her way to success through obloquy and contempt, or without reaching success, like Roger Bacon or a Galileo, a Wagner, or an Edison.'

"But woman possesses other qualities that are infinitely superior to man's. What John Brown could not accomplish with his savage, masculine methods Harriet Beecher Stowe has accomplished by her feminine, noble and inspiring methods. What all the skill and constructive capacity of the

Julia Ward Howe.

Photo © by Purdy



Rosa Bonheur



Ellen Terry as Portia, Shakespeare's Ideal of Feminine Mentality.



Queen Elizabeth of England



George Sand



Catherine II of Russia



Harriet Beecher Stowe.

physicians in the Crimean War had failed to accomplish Florence Nightingale accomplished by her beautiful femininity and nobility of soul. These great movements for the welfare of mankind are absolutely the products of the feminine mind, and have failed to emanate from the masculine mind, showing the superiority of the inscrutable germ plasm in the feminine mind in this respect. The germ plasm of femininity has never mingled with that of masculinity, an exception to the Mendelian law. Nor has environment yet endowed her with masculinity, an exception to the Weismann theory. The Biblical fiat will stand till the end of time: 'God created man in His image—in the image of God created He him: male and female created He them.'

Thus, in this typically masculine line of thinking is the matter dismissed by the distinguished scientist as having reached its finality. The interview is prolific in suggestion and controversial material, if time and space allowed. Before resorting, however, to the final court of decision, the record of the ages, there are certain factors Dr. Baruch has mentioned that cannot be overlooked.

In the first place, the argument of rapid development and evolution in the last seventy-five years is specious, but cannot logically and honestly be employed either for or against the question of the superiority or inferiority of woman's mind. The great surgeon Freund of Vienna, while addressing his class not so very long since, stated that woman had failed of achievement in every line, even in her own specialty, in which of all lines of endeavor she should have succeeded; and that it has been only within the last seventy-five years since that department of science had fallen into the hands of men that progress has been made by leaps and bounds.

But this is true not only of this specialty but of every development of science and the arts as well and in all the avenues of human endeavor.

ual power resulting from but four or five generations of freedom of thought. And even if he chooses so to do, the comparison might react rather unfavorably to him than otherwise; for he, the lord of the manor, might not have shown as marked mental resiliency in as short a time and under such obvious difficulties. Even man's intellectuality would remain dormant and non-productive when lost in a Sahara of oppression or immersed in the dungeon of non-use.

Again, masculine attributes and characteristics, whether physical or mental, do not bear any direct developmental relationship to the intellectuality of the individual. Correspondingly, feminine qualities do not detract from or add to the mental efficiency of the woman. Rather do they modify and characterize her work, just as the masculine qualities distinguish the work of man. In other words, the intellectuality remaining the same, the masculine or feminine characteristics are but qualifying factors and not determining elements in the mental greatness or deficiency of the individual.

It would appear to be a phase of masculine egotism to assume a superiority of brain power merely on the ground of sex. Only recently, indeed, has Manouvrier, the eminent French anthropologist, written as follows: "A few years ago it was commonly thought that the brain of man was much larger than the brain of woman. It has been found, however, that, in proportion to the size of her body, woman has a larger brain. Woman's brain weight is to man's as 30 is to 100; but then woman's body weight is to man's as only 83 is to 100. I go even further than this and estimate that the active organic mass of woman's body is to that of man's as, at most, 70 is to 100. Thus, it looks as if woman has, in proportion to her body weight, a little more brain weight than man. Her superiority in comparative brain mass, however, implies no intellectual superiority. On the other hand, there seems to be no reason for the belief that women are naturally slightly less intelligent than men. Man undoubtedly possesses some natural advantages over woman. He is stronger in body, for instance, while the woman is stronger in constitution. This fact has determined the natural division of labor between the sexes. From the beginning man has been the fighting animal and woman the domesticating force. Woman has made the home and man has guarded it. Man has invented the weapons of human supremacy over the wild beast; woman has discovered the means of turning plants into food. Man has generally undertaken the work requiring great effort exerted suddenly and for a short space of time; woman has done most of the hard drudgery of existence." In other words, at great self-sacrifice woman has endured the dreadful

No age has shown such marvellous progress as achievements have the past three-quarters of a century. Had midwifery remained in the hands of the women during this remarkable evolutionary period who can say what developments might still have been recorded.

Moreover, it has been only within the last century—a period of four generations—that woman has been slowly but surely emerging from the darkness and oppression of the feudal and prefeudal ages in which man had confined her, not through sheer force of intellectual superiority, but by the power of masculine physical development and its associated law of "might makes right," the same law which in the earlier ages of the race destroyed the physically weak as useless to the State, ignoring the possibility of the development of such into intellectual giants. Considered as mere chattel, cowed and subdued, taught for countless generations that women, like children, should be seen and not heard, foisted as an ornament of the home, a plaything for the men, a producer of the line of warriors and race builders, a passive element of humanity, it does not seem either logical or right for man to compare his untrammelled mental development of untold generations with the intellect-

deadening routine of housework from time immemorial that man might use his higher brain cells for the furtherance of racial evolution. Manouvrier's statements remind us of the truth that "the really great do not proclaim themselves through facial traits or the size of heads."

From the foregoing it would seem that man's physical superiority acting through eons has permitted him a wider horizon for mental development and has fostered the popular masculine idea that he is also mentally superior to woman. With the growth of this idea in the dawn of the ages the restricting walls were slowly but surely drawn around the woman until advancing civilization with its attendant moral enlightenment awakened the minds of the highest thinkers to the inaccuracy and injustice of the whole matter. Then began the awakening of woman.

Exception must be taken also to Dr. Baruch's assumption that civilization is a feminine product only. Woman, with her finer sensibilities congenitally finer and made still more so by ages of cultivation—her maternal instinct and her wonderful sense of intuition, has been assuredly a

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